Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 IO-14 ACDA-19 SAM-01 PRS-01 DRC-01 L-03

H-03 /106 W

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R 090900Z SEP 74 FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5794 SECDEF WASHDC INFO CINCPAC JCS

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JOINT EMBASSY/COMUSK MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MILI, KS, US

SUBJECT: SCM DRAFT COMMUNIQUE

REF: SEOUL 5854

- 1. DRAFT COMMUNIQUE ROKS HAVE PROPOSED (REFTEL) FOLLOWS LINES PAST COMMUNIQUES AND WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO WORK OUR MUTUALLY AGREEABLE DRAFT AT HONOLULU. OUR SPECIFIC COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDED CHANGES FOLLOW: (KEYED TO NUMBERED PARAS IN ROK DRAFT).
- A. PARA 1 IS ALMOST IDENTICAL TO LAST YEAR'S COMMUNIQUE. MINISTER SUH'S MEETINGS WITH USG OFFICIALS AND ANY OTHER ACTIVITIES HE ENGAGES IN SHOULD EVENTUALLY BE INCORPORATED.
- B. RELATIVELY QUIET NOTE OF ALARM SOUNDED PARA 2 AGREEABLE TO US AS LONG AS IT IS ATTRIBUTED SOLELY TO MINISTER SUH. REVISE LAST SENTENCE SECRET

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PARA 2 TO READ: "SECRETARY SCHLESINGER TOOK NOTE

MINISTER SUH'S DESCRIPTION OF THE SITUATION AND AGREED ON THE NECESSITY OF CONTINUING VIGILENCE."

- C. PARA 3 SENTENCES TWO AND FOUR SHOULD BE ELIMINATED. SENTENCE 1 PARA 3 SHOULD BE REWORKED

 TO READ AS FOLLOWS: "BOTH DELEGATES AGREED THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN THE DEFENSE CAPABILITIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND TO MAINTAIN THE COMBINED FORCES DEFENDING KOREA AT A SUFFICIENT STATUS OF READINESS TO PREVENT THE RENEWAL OF HOSTILITIES AND MAINTAIN PEACE AND SECURITY ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA. IN THIS CONNECTION, SECRETARY SCHLESINGER REAFFIRMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS NO PLAN TO REDUCE THE PRESENT LEVEL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES STATIONED IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA."
- D. WE HAVE NO SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS WITH PARA FOUR BUT BELIEVE IT IS SOMEWHAT OUT OF PLACE IN DEFENSE MINISTER'S STATEMENTS AND COULD BE SHORTENED CONSIDERABLY WITHOUT CHANGING ITS EFFECT.
- E. LAST SENTENCE PARA 5, WORD "STRENGTHENING" SHOULD BE CHANGED TO "MAINTAINING."
- F. SECOND SENTENCE PARA 6 SHOULD BE REWRITTEN AS FOLLOWS: "THE TWO DELEGATES NOTED THAT THE ORDERLY AND EXPEDITIOUS COMPLETION OF THE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM IS VITAL TO THE SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.
- G. PARA 6, THIRD SENTENCE REVISE AS FOLLOWS:
 "SECRETARY SCHLESINGER ALSO STATED THAT THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZED THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA'S NEED FOR A CONTINUING MODERNIZATION PROGRAM AND ASSURED MINISTER SUH THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD STRIVE TO ASSIST IN OBTAINING THAT OBJECTIVE."
- H. CHANGE LAST HALF OF SENTENCE TWO, PARA 7
 TO READ: "AND ASSURED THAT HE WOULD RENDER
 APPROPRIATE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO ROKG EFFORTS IN
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THIS FIELD."

- 2. EMBASSY/COMUSK DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THESE PROPOSED CHANGES WILL PROVE UNEXPECTED FOR ROKS AND WE SEE NO NEED TO ENGAGE IN EXTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ROK SIDE OVER COMMUNIQUE PRIOR TO SCM.
- 3. INSTEAD WE SUGGEST THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED AT

THIS TIME TO GIVE ROKG WASHINGTON SUGGESTED
DRAFT INCORPORATION ABOVE CHANGES NOTING THAT
WE WILL WORK OUT FINAL VERSION AT HONOLULU.
ERICSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: AGREEMENT DRAFT, TEXT, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, COLLECTIVE SECURITY AGREEMENTS, MEETINGS, COMMUNIQUES

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 09 SEP 1974 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED

Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SEQUII 05918

Document Number: 1974SEOUL05918 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A Film Number: D740250-0014 From: SEOUL JOINT

Handling Restrictions: n/a Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740963/aaaacbhu.tel Line Count: 119 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION EA

Original Classification: SECRET Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 3

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: SEOUL 5854

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: kelleyw0

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 06 AUG 2002

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Aug-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by kelleyw0>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: SCM DRAFT COMMUNIQUE

TAGS: MARR, MILI, KS, US

To: STATE DÓD

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005